

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Over-current protection is accomplished in an output transistor (MP) of an electronic circuit wherein an input signal ($V_{\text{gatedrive}}$) is applying to a first conductor (19) coupled to a gate of the output transistor to cause an output current (I_{out}) to flow through the output transistor and an output terminal (11) of the electronic circuit. A limit voltage (V_{LIMIT}) who is applied to an input (21) of a voltage clamping circuit (18) to cause a clamping current to flow in the first conductor (19) as needed to prevent the magnitude of the input signal ($V_{\text{gatedrive}}$) from being less than the magnitude of the limit voltage (V_{LIMIT}) so that the output current (I_{out}) is limited to a maximum current limit determined by the limit voltage (V_{LIMIT}). A control signal (I_{LIMIT}/n) is applied to an input of a current-to-voltage conversion circuit (20) to cause the current-to-voltage conversion circuit to produce the limit voltage (V_{LIMIT}), which is applied to an emitter of a first transistor (Q1) having a collector in base connected to a bias current source (I1). The resulting voltage on a base of the first transistor is applied to a base of a second transistor (Q2), and the input signal ($V_{\text{gatedrive}}$) is applied to the first conductor (19).